HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol.12 No. 08 - August, 2004

President's Letter

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Right now the ARRL is looking for mentors. Does this club have an Elmer system? Do we have mentors?

During the last meeting I attended - the one where I got this job again - there were two new faces. I had not seen them before, but then I had been away for a bit. What surprised me was the lack of "warm welcome" given to these folks who had just found our meeting. Warren, K9IZV, recognized them right away for strangers in our midst and came right up and talked with them. I observed from across the room and I saw no one else show a remote interest in the new faces...

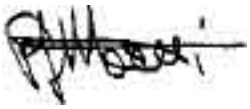
It wasn't until after the introductions that a few people came up and made sure they had copies of our newsletter and an invitation to Field Day.

We need a greeting procedure, a form of culture change that makes it a nice thing to do to greet strangers and offer help when needed. Are you an Elmer? Are you a mentor? It would be nice if we could identify those of us who aspire to help others and provide them with brochures and information to give to our visitors - not just give but also follow-up and make sure the parties are made to feel welcome and are comfortable with the meeting.

I just came back from an Alaskan journey. It was a mixed trip of airplanes, boats, trains and busses! Every where along the way, people went out of their way to make us feel welcome and to make sure we were not in any "need". As we rode along the dirt highways of the Yukon/Alaska central forests, our bus would always slow and even stop to see if someone on the side of the road might need help. Most of the time, they would wave before we came to a complete stop. Our driver explained that this was common practice - to stop to see if someone needs help along the road! We really need to do more of that in our own lives! Or at least in Ham Radio! More specifically at our own meetings!

Please contact one of your board members and let him know you want to help! Please sign-up to be a Mentor.

73,



Patrick

W9UQ

MRAC Officers

President
Patrick Moretti W9UQ

Vice Pres.
Howard Parks AB9FH

Secretary
Tom Schulte AB9EK

Treasurer
Tom Schulte AB9EK

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Pancho Donels KA9OFA ('03-'05)

Hal Newton KB9OZN ('04-'06)

Joe Sturmberg KA9DFZ ('04-'06)

Jerry Wahlen WA9CGE ('03-'05)

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P.O. Box 070695
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Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	5:00 - 7:15 AM	3.985	Badger Weather Net
Daily	6:00 PM	1.895	MidEast 160 m. Net
Daily	6-8:00 AM	14.290	Milwaukee/Florida (SSB)
Daily	7:30 AM	144.155	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	WI Slow Speed CW Traffic
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net
Mon.-Sat.	12:00 PM	28.380	10/10 International Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	3.994	Tech Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.865-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
Mon.	8:45 PM	146.670-	ARRL voice news (ARES)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m.SSB NET
Mon.	9:00 PM	146.670-	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
Tue.	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. (CW)
Tue.	8:30 PM	223.500	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m. SSB Net.
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Internat. (Milw. Ch.) (SSB)
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130	ARRL voice news
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap net.
hu.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr. SSB Net.
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Fri	8:30 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)
Fri.	9:00 PM	145.390-	W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10mtr.
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800+	FM-38 link to 146.88 Bar. SWAP Net
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Int. (MKE Ch.) (SSB)
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are $17.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 PM. the last Thursday of the month except for December and are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

ARRL	K9GDF	W9UQ
AB9EK	KB9Q	N9UX
AB9EY		KF9XL

Thanks also to Rita Doneis and Tom Fuszard for help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to Dick Wood for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped and mailed and to Joe Schwarz who Emails it.

Thanks also goes to Howard Parks who administers our website.

Thanks also to Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.

Thanks also goes to Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Thanks to Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who are our VEC's.

Many Thanks goes to Jerry Wahlen for all of his work as Chairman of the Field Day Committee.

Thank YOU!

Future Programs

Upcoming programs for MRAC are as follows:

The **August** program will be a **roundtable discussion** on "What the Club wants from us and vice versa".

The **September** program will be on **Lightning Protection** by Dick Wood, W9JBE

Reminder

Check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

Our Ten Meter SSB net is at 8:30 PM on 28.490 Mhz. USB

Our Two Meter FM net follows at 9:00 PM on our repeater @ 145.390 MHz with a – offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr. We usually meet at 8:00 AM, and order around 8:15 AM.

Membership Meeting July 29, 2004

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Howard AB9FH, the club's vice president. The microphone was passed for introductions.

Buzz talk is something new that started this month. Rick, W9GYT reports that six meters has been open and made aurora contacts to Wales and Portugal on cw. Jack, W9ULA reports that on the 10-meter net that a ham from Georgia checked in. Joe, KA9DZF reports that 40 meters has been open to the New England states. Warren, K9IZV reports that he talked with a Marek SP1JRF on the repeater. Marek was located on a ship that was docked here in Milwaukee. Tom, AB9EK reported on operating on RTTY for the first time on 20-meters. Sherm, KB9Q reported on the activity on 60-meters. He stated that local hams in Alabama are using the band for local communications. Buck, K9RYW reported on his PSK activity on 40-meters to New Zealand.

Tom AB9EK read the minutes from the June meeting. A motion was made by Pancho, KA9OFA and seconded by Les, AB9EY to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed.

Tom, AB9EK gave the financial report for June 16th to July 15th. A motion was made by Tom, WI9TOM and seconded by Sherm, KB9Q to approve the report as read. Motion passed.

Howard explained that Mark, AB9CD had resigned as treasurer and that Tom, AB9EK is doing the treasurer duties. We are looking for someone to take over the treasurer's job.

Tom AB9EK reported that the Field Day equipment is now being stored at his QTH. Jerry, WA9CGE did not have a report ready on the club's Field Day event.

Howard, AB9FH heard second-hand of some complaints on how the presidential election was held. He stated that if you have any questions on the matter to bring it up to the Board.

Tom, KF9PU was reelected as the NCVEC chairman for 2005. Tom reported on the NCVEC conference he attended. He stated that the code will be around for at least a year or so and that code exams will continue. Also the FCC is looking at 18 items for possible change including license and band restructuring. Tom suggests that all amateurs contact their elected officials and suggest they look into lowering the vanity license fee, which now cost around $50.00. The FCC web page is being updated to make it more user friendly and should be ready sometime this fall. The NCVEC web page address is www.NCVEC.org. Tom also stated that the remote testing on July 17th in Alaska over the Internet had been successful. The program will now be active in Alaska.

Howard and Tom Schulte talked about the possible Technician class the club would like to start up. It would be a two-day class with testing afterwards. We are trying to get the West Allis Club and Menomonee Falls club involved. Mark, AB9CD and Tom, KF9PU both stated that the VEC would not get involved with testing right after a teaching session. They feel it might be a conflict of interest. They suggest holding a class that would end a week before a test session. Tom stated that this is still under discussion and would bring the concerns of the VEC to the Board. If we do this, we would need about six or more instructors.

Howard had a question on the sign up sheet. It asked if you have visited the club's web page. Howard is looking for comments on how to improve it or any suggestions on things to add. Mark, AB9CD stated that there should be buttons for links to the club's forms instead of word links to make it easier to find. Send your comments to Howard.

Mark, AB9CD asks that you clean up after yourself so others don't have to at the end of the meeting.

There is VEC testing on July 31st at AES.

Pancho asks if you have an article for the Chatter to get it to him by the 7th of the month.

A motion was made by Pancho, KA9OFA and seconded by Tom, WI9TOM to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm. Meeting adjourned. Howard, AB9FH provided the program on fox hunting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Schulte, AB9EK

Club Secretary

Comments from the Secretary

The first thing I want to say is I apologize to any member that this might offend. As a member, we all have a right to say what we think is right or wrong and this is what I have to say.

After the club meeting of July 29th , I heard some complaints from members that the election of a club president was wrong because our bylaws state the elections are held in May, not in June, or any other month. I heard that if we were going to have an election in June it should have been published so that the membership would have known about it and possibly showed up at the meeting and vote. I was also told that our president was not elected unanimously as stated in the June Chatter because some of the members present did not vote. I again apologize for this since a hand count was not taken. Those who did vote were in the majority and no one objected.

As you may have heard, Mark AB9CD has resigned as treasurer and we are now looking for a replacement. I am now doing the treasurer's job along with the secretary's job.

We have many personalities in this club and many opinions in this group. We need to work together to make this club strong. In the five years that I have been in this club, I have been a Director and secretary for the past two years and am the present secretary. In the past, the Board has asked for ideas from the membership and not many have come forward with any ideas. I say to you, that you may have been a member for a long time and probably have been on the Board and a club officer as well, and that's great. But if you feel that the present Board isn't doing something right, come and let us know about it and help us go in the right direction instead of complaining about it behind our backs. Either talk to us at a club meeting or come to a Board meeting to discuss it. You can also call any one of the Board members or even send an email. We don't know what we are doing wrong if you don't tell us. Now with that said, if any member feels that I am not doing my job correctly, remember that this is a voluntary job, I'll gladly give it up to you but then we didn't have many members that ran for office in May, now did we.

With all this said, I propose the following changes to our bylaws. I feel they are needed and should be discussed at the August meeting and voted on at the September meeting.

Elections

If there are no members willing to run for any club office at the May election, then the present officers shall remain in office until such time as there are nominations for all positions and then a special election will be held. This special election will first be announced in the Chatter one month prior to the actual election.

All elections will be by ballot. Ballots will be provided by the secretary and the secretary will keep all ballots for one year after the election. After the one year is up the Ballots can be destroyed.

Resignations

Upon the resignation of the club President, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the President and become the club's President. He then can appoint a Vice President to assume the duties of the Vice President until the term expires.

Upon the resignation of the Vice President, the President shall assume his duties until he can appoint a Vice President and the new Vice President will assume the duties of the Vice President until the term expires.

Upon the resignation of the Secretary, the Treasurer will assume the Secretary duties until the President can appoint a new Secretary. The new Secretary will assume the duties of Secretary until the term expires.

Upon the resignation of the Treasurer, the Secretary will assume the duties of the Treasurer until the President can appoint a Treasurer. The new Treasurer will assume the duties of Treasurer until the term expires.

Upon the resignation of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer all at the same time, the Directors shall assume the duties of these officers and hold a special election upon notice to the membership via email, phone call, post card, letter, or as a notice in the Chatter as soon as possible to elect new officers.

Treasurer's Duties

The Treasurer is responsible for making sure that the Bank has up to date signature cards on file for all Board members who are responsible for signing the MRAC checks. This must be done as soon as possible after the Election or Appointment of the Treasurer.

continued on pg. 5

continued from pg. 4

Board Meetings

The time, date and location of Board meetings shall be published in the Chatter so that members who wish to attend such meeting may do so. No Board meetings will be held without notification to the MRAC membership. Notification can be by email, newsletter, phone, post card or letter. The Secretary will have the responsibility to notify the Members.

Club Mail

All official MRAC mail shall be sent to the MRAC Post Office Box, not to any officer's or director's home. This includes the bank statements and phone bills.

The Board will appoint an individual to pick up the MRAC mail at the club's post office box. That person will have the mail box key and have the responsibility for delivery of the mail to either the MRAC Secretary or Treasurer.

Let's all have fun with Amateur Radio.

Tom AB9EK

FCC No Longer Issuing Certain 2x3-Format Vanity Call Signs

The FCC has ceased issuing 2x3-format Amateur Radio vanity call signs that begin with the prefixes WC, WR, WK and WT (eg, WR1AAA, WC4ZZZ). The Commission has acknowledged that it erroneously granted more than 150 WR and WC-prefix 2x3 vanity call signs from 1997 through September 2003, when it began rejecting such call sign requests.

In the late 1970s, the FCC announced a new Amateur Service call sign assignment system. It provided four standard call sign groups, designated Group A, B, C and D, delineated by license class and issued sequentially with no backfilling. The FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, recently told the nation's volunteer examiner coordinators (VECs) that the FCC also had a "Group X." These included WC (RACES), WR (repeater), WK and WT-prefix 2x3-format call signs reportedly reserved for special-use licenses.

The FCC stopped issuing repeater call signs in 1983 and ceased renewing RACES licenses in 2000. After the current vanity program began in 1996, several ham clubs sought new and formerly held repeater and RACES-type call signs. When the Universal Licensing System came along in August 1999, however, the FCC encountered some licensing system programming shortcomings, including the anomalous assignments of WC and WR-prefix 2x3 call signs as acceptable formats.

When the FCC implemented programming corrections that halted the issuance of Group X call signs in September 2003, it did not advise the amateur community. As a result, several amateurs who filed for 2x3 WC or WR-prefix call signs had their applications dismissed without any explanation beyond saying that the applicant's call sign choice was unavailable. That remains the case. The FCC has not indicated whether it plans to address the WC and WR-prefix 2x3 call signs it's already issued.

In a related matter, the FCC's new Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of $20.80 for the 10-year license term goes into effect Friday, August 6. All applications received at the FCC on or after that date must be accompanied by the new, higher fee.

This space is awaiting your input!

Bicycles and Megacycles by Richard Regent, K9GDF

Our energetic ARRL Section Manager, Don Michalski, W9IXG, will be taking a bicycle tour to retrace the journey on the trail that explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark discovered of the unmapped lands of North Dakota. CANDISC 2004: Cycling Around North Dakota in Sakakawea Country, will cover 414 miles in 7 days, an average of 59 miles of peddling per day. The bicycling tour is not a race. Riders will cycle past unspoiled striking vistas and seemingly endless fields storing large rolls of hay, scenery having very few barns, and over roads in slightly rolling terrain. The tour will go on in any weather -- in hot sun or cool rain; while watching for potholes, gravel or crossing animals; and riding through swarms of insects. Riders will rest overnight, camping in their individual tents.

Don's Section Manager administrative and communications duties will be set aside and be delegated from July 31 through August 7, 2004 while he enthusiastically enjoys bicycling, his favorite sport, and operating Amateur Radio QRP (communicating with a low power transmitter).

Since Don was first licensed in 1957, he has built lots of kits including many Heathkits, and particularly enjoys operating QRP. So recently Don ordered his new Elecraft KX1 kit, the ultra-portable CW transceiver. He said it could be built in few evenings, maybe in 25 hours of putting parts in the right places. This miniature transceiver operates 4 watts CW on 40 and 20 meters. Don is adding a plug-in module to allow for 30-meter operation. Battery power is from six AA cells that last 20 to 30 hours under constant operating. The receiver only draws 34 ma of current. Don might buy some fresh cells along way if necessary. The KX1 has a built in keyer and an attachable sending paddle.

Around 8:00 p.m. each evening, Don plans to throw the 24-foot antenna wire over a tree and then place the 16-foot counterpoise wire on the ground. This is the radio connection for contacting his friends back in Wisconsin on 7.040, 10.106 or 14.060 MHz QRP frequencies. A bicycle tour like this goes through the rarest of North Dakota counties, so there will also be many contacts for County Hunters. Other tour riders, besides discovering the Trail, will certainly be enlightened to learn about Amateur Radio from Wisconsin's expert.

Amateur Radio

Amateur Radio is the means of communication with others on equal terms, of finding friendship, adventure and prestige while seated at one's own fireside. In picking his human contacts out of the air the amateur is not seen by them. He is not known by the clothes he wears but by the signals he emits. He enters a new world whose qualifications for success are within his reach. There are no century-old class prejudices to impede his progress. He enters a thoroughly democratic world where he rises or falls by his own efforts. When he is W9XYZ, a beginner, the radio elders help him willingly, and when he becomes W9XYZ, the record-breaker and efficient traffic-handler, he willingly helps the younger generation. Without a pedigree, a chauffeur, or an old master decorating his living room he can become a prince - - of the air. At the close of the day, filled with the monotone routine of the machine age, he can find adventure, vicarious travel, prestige and friendship by throwing in the switch and pounding his signals into the air.

Dr. Raymond V. Bowers,
Yale University

EVENTS

* = VE Testing

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - August 26, 2004
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

Radio Expo 2004 *
SAT. & SUN - SEP. 18 & 19, 2004
Lake Co Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
T/I on 146.16/76 MHz (107.2 Hz PL)

Peoria SuperFest
FRI. - SUN. - SEP. 17 - 19, 2004
Exposition Gardens Fairgrounds
Peoria, IL
T/I on 147.075 -

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Sep. 30, 2004
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

Hoosier Hills Hamfest *
SAT - OCT. 3, 2004
Lawrence Co. 4-H Fairgrounds
Bedford, IN
T/I on 146.73- (107. PL)

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Oct. 28, 2004
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

Amateur Radio Fest 2004
SAT - NOV. 6, 2004
Waukesha Co. Expo Ctr
Waukesha, WI
T/I on 146.910 - (127.3 PL)

Fox Cities SwapFest *
SUN. - NOV. 7, 2004
Waverly Beach
Menasha, WI

VE TEST RESULTS

There were 18 examinees, and 13 were successful in either upgrading or in qualifying for their first license. Twenty-two elements were administered, and seventeen were passed.

MRAC VEC held VE testing on July 31, 2004 at AES. Those VEs who interrupted their summer activities to attend this session included the following:

Mark Bye KB9LDX
Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
Bob Immekus W9CYI
John Kraak KF9XL
Hal Newton KB9OZN
Sherm Swanson KB9Q
Mark Tellier AB9CD

Our **next exam session** will be on Saturday, **September 25**, 2004 at 9:30AM at AES. Have a great balance of the summer.

73, John (KF9KL)

John - KF9XL

GOOD-BYE CODE TEST?

If you are waiting for the Morse Code (Element 1) requirement to be removed from the Amateur service so that you can upgrade, you will have a long wait. The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club is one of the 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organizations recognized by the FCC. The MRAC's representative, KF9PU, Tom is Chairman of the National VEC Conference and he reports that the FCC representative, W3TN, Bill Cross did not feel that restructuring, including deletion or further modification of the code requirement, is in the foreseeable future. With 18 petitions and 6000 comments on the subject Bill felt that a FCC proposal for rule making would not be made until late next year. (Also, partially from the ARRL Letter.)

Exceprted from Week in Review by Sherm - KB9Q

'CHATTER DEADLINE

The deadline for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is the 7th day of each month. If you have anything for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

You may contact me by email at:

pancho@thepark.net

or by snailmail at:

Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA
1958 N. 38th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208

or by phone at:

(414) 344-4694

The **next Meeting** of **M.R.A.C.**
will be **Thursday - August 26, 2004**
at **7:00 PM** at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the South entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please don't call the church.

The program for the
August 26th MRAC
general meeting
will be:

A RoundTable Discussion

"What do I expect from the Club AND What does the Club Expect from Me?"

M.R.A.C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695